



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 27, 2021

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Directors of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: Principals, DLM District and School Test/Assessment Coordinators, Data Managers, Technology Representatives and All Other Staff Involved with Students with Significant Intellectual Disabilities

From: Lisa J. Gleason, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Preparation for the 2021-2022 Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Year-End (YE) Alternate Assessment for Students with the Most Significant Intellectual Disabilities

The purpose of this memo is to provide districts with information regarding the requirements and preparation for the 2021-2022 Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Year-End (YE) summative assessment. Included in this memo is important information about the requirements for student participation, staff role assignments, tasks, timelines for training and test specifications.

Note: Please note that this required spring 2022 DLM YE summative assessment is different from the optional, DLM Instructionally Embedded (IE) assessments that are currently available for fall 2021; please see the broadcast released on [August 25, 2021](#) for more information on the DLM IE assessments.

DLM Student Participation

Students with the most significant intellectual disabilities who meet the [participation criteria for DLM](#) must test in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3 to 8 and 11, and in science grades 5, 8, and 11.

Current grade 12 students who did not participate in the spring 2021 administration of the DLM when in grade 11 are encouraged, but not required, to participate in the spring 2022 administration.

2021-2022 DLM Year-End Testing Window

The DLM testing window is **April 1 through May 27, 2022**. This window allows sufficient time for all students to complete testing and accommodates spring break, holidays, etc. The NJDOE strongly encourages districts to begin testing no later than mid-April to ensure that adequate time is available to administer the assessment.

Assessment Administration Roles and Responsibilities

Administrators or specialized staff must be designated in the Educator Portal to serve as the Assessment Coordinator, the District Data Manager, and the District Technology Representative; individual school-level coordinators may also be assigned the Building Assessment Coordinator role. Please note that teachers *may not* be assigned to these roles; however, all play a key role in the successful preparation and administration of the DLM.

District and Building Assessment Coordinators must conduct training for all teachers administering the DLM, oversee and ensure the proper implementation of the assessment, act as the point of contact for all teachers administering DLM, and interact with and request assistance from the Data Manager and Technology Representative as needed. Assessment Coordinators will be notified when their online training becomes available on the [New Jersey DLM webpage](#).

The Data Manager must electronically submit a [user upload template](#) to DLM via Educator Portal with the names of approved staff serving in the DLM assessment roles to obtain Login IDs and passwords for staff, as well as

perform other data management tasks such as verifying enrollment data and producing online rosters. The Technology Representative must prepare all necessary district devices for the implementation of this online computer assessment, as well as conduct other tasks. Data Managers and Technology Representatives will be notified when their online training becomes available on the [New Jersey DLM webpage](#).

Tested Skills, Blueprints, and Essential Elements

The [DLM webpage for ELA and math](#) provides the year-end test blueprints and learning maps that delineate the DLM Essential Elements, or content area skills that are deemed essential, and therefore will be tested. The DLM science year-end test blueprints, Essential Elements, and skill and knowledge statements are also found on the [DLM science webpage](#).

The DLM Essential Elements should be integrated into the classroom instruction of participating students. This will give students the opportunity to acquire these skills as well as to help prepare them for the levels of test questions administered based on students' First Contact surveys. The [DLM Professional Development site](#) contains guidance on utilizing the Essential Elements in the classroom, as well as important information regarding components of the DLM system.

Schedule

Assessment Coordinator tasks and schedules will be outlined in the forthcoming *NJ DLM Assessment Coordinator Training* presentation, that will be released prior to the start of the assessment administration. The presentation will include a timeline for training teachers, delineation of staff responsibilities, and a schedule of future presentations. Available for immediate review are the [DLM Accessibility Manual](#), the [DLM Test Administration Manual](#) and the [DLM Data Management Manual](#).

Obtaining Information

The [New Jersey DLM website](#) is the repository for all New Jersey specific training materials and required forms. It also contains links to DLM webinars, resource guides, professional development modules, how-to videos, data templates, and technology requirements. Educators are encouraged to visit this website regularly to review the most up-to-date resource guides, training materials and manuals. [Test Updates](#) are available online and it is recommended that staff involved in the DLM administration subscribe to receive automatic updates.

Contact Information

For further information or for answers to specific questions, DLM email addresses and phone numbers are included in each resource guide. Key contact information for both DLM and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is listed below.

| Contact | Contact Information | Contact for Questions Regarding: |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| DLM Customer Service | DLM-Support@ku.edu (855) 277-9751 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLM manuals • Moodle training and certification • Educator Portal issues • Kite Client issues |
| NJDOE Office of Assessments | assessments@doe.nj.gov | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLM state-specific administration policy and procedures • New District Test Coordinator access |
| NJDOE Office of Special Education | Jenifer.Spear@doe.nj.gov | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Jersey DLM technical/policy and program assistance • DLM student participation guidance |

c: Members, State Board of Education
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NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group